

Park Avenue Synagogue Bulletin

סיון-תמוז-אב JULY-AUGUST 2011

Summer
5771

Renew Our Days



SUMMER IS BOTH A SEASON TO TAKE A BREAK FROM ROUTINE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ON SOMETHING NEW. In this issue, the rabbis are taking a break from writing monthly Bulletin articles. The programs described on the following pages offer

new possibilities for study, entertainment, and service.

If you've not yet participated in our Mitzvah of the Month program, there is a chance to do a summer project right on the Upper East Side (see p. 11). If your schedule at work is lighter in summer, join Rabbi Zuckerman at Midtown Lunch & Learn to find out how rabbis in the Conservative movement have interpreted Jewish law to meet contemporary challenges (see p. 7). If you've missed attending Yiddish Club because it meets during the day, July brings a chance to spend an evening with other congregants who thrill to the sounds of *mameloshn* (see p. 8).

On Monday evening, August 8, and Tuesday, August 9, we will observe Tisha B'Av, the 9th day of the month of Av, the date that we commemorate the destruction of both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem and mourn other catastrophic events in Jewish history. Tisha B'Av is the only 25-hour fast on our calendar other than Yom Kippur. Unlike Yom Kippur, which

is a solemn day, but not a sad one, Tisha B'Av is a day of public mourning. Following tradition, we chant *Eikhah*, the Book of Lamentations, sing dirges, recite daily prayers without melody, and even refrain from greeting one another. In reality, however, with so many people taking vacations and spending weekends away from the city, Tisha B'Av can be one of the few times over the summer that we see friends in the synagogue community. Tisha B'Av evening may feel upbeat instead of mournful. Anyone who has ever been to Jewish overnight camp remembers Tisha B'Av as an emotional high point of the summer. Coming to synagogue on Tisha B'Av may seem more like coming to a camp reunion than to a place of mourning. How do we integrate our warm feelings with the knowledge that we are gathered to commemorate sad events? Perhaps we focus on the remarkable fact that more than 2,000 years since the Second Temple was destroyed, we Jews are still here to remember it! In that vein, we will have the opportunity on Erev Tisha B'Av, in addition to hearing the traditional laments and dirges, to hear from Rabbi David Hoffman from JTS about how we reconcile mourning for the destruction of Jerusalem with celebrating the rebirth of Israel (see p. 9).

Summer is a time to sign off and to sign on, to reduce activity and to become busy with something different. Make Park Avenue Synagogue your summer retreat and your summer adventure. We hope to see you often!

Park Avenue Synagogue Bulletin

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pasyn.org/resources/publications/monthly-bulletins

READ THE MONTHLY BULLETINS AT WWW.PASYN.ORG/RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS/MONTHLY-BULLETINS.



SHIREE KIDRON *Assistant Cantor*



SHIREE KIDRON COMES TO PAS WITH A BROAD MUSICAL BACKGROUND AND A DEEP CONNECTION TO JUDAISM. Born

in Haifa, Israel, Shiree studied classical music and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in music from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She came to the U.S. to study opera and earned a

Master in Vocal Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, where her performances won praise from the *New York Times*. Shiree has performed recitals with orchestras and musical ensembles at Carnegie Hall, in other U.S. cities, Rome, Ukraine and Israel. She is the vocalist of the Sheba Ensemble, a female Jewish group that focuses on original music and traditional melodies in Ladino, Hebrew, English and Yiddish.

Living in New York City when she began her studies, Shiree looked for community in synagogues. She found herself increasingly drawn to liturgy and to the experience of developing spirituality through music. She soon came to feel at home as a *baalat t'filah*, a prayer leader, as well as a versatile performer of Jewish folk and world music.

Shiree has led High Holy Day and Shabbat services for synagogues in the New York metropolitan area and has taught Hebrew and *t'filot* in addition to training B'nei Mitzvah students. She is a participant in the CICA, the Cantorial Intern Program of the Cantors Assembly, a program that prepares qualified congregational leaders to become members of the CA.

Shiree is excited to come to Park Avenue Synagogue, where she will have opportunities not only to lead prayer from the bimah, but also to sing with young children, to share her love of liturgy with adults and schoolchildren, to help young men and women prepare to become Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and to participate in cantorial concerts.

LIZ OFFENBACH *Director of Synagogue Programming*



LIZ OFFENBACH IS THRILLED TO JOIN THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE COMMUNITY

as Director of Synagogue Programming, where she oversees adult learning opportunities. Most recently, Liz served as director of program at the Jewish Outreach Institute, where she developed and implemented programs for

intermarried families and others on the periphery of the Jewish community, working with Jewish institutions throughout North America. Prior to the Jewish Outreach Institute, Liz worked at an advertising agency, in the television industry and at several publications.

Liz is currently pursuing her Master in Public Administration from Baruch College, part of The City University of New York. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from New York University, majoring in journalism & mass communication and Jewish history & civilization.

While she was at NYU, Liz taught religious school in Manhattan and Brooklyn. She is excited to be working at a synagogue again. She especially looks forward to integrating adult learning with the full arc of lifelong Jewish education that is so much at the core of Park Avenue Synagogue. In her scant free time, Liz enjoys running, spending time with her family and friends, and participating actively in two book clubs.

Know someone ill, elderly or homebound? THE PAS BIKUR CHOLIM CARING COMMITTEE —in loving memory of Dr. Albert & Phyllis L. Cornell— fulfills the mitzvah of visting the ill by reaching out to those in need through telephone calls, visits, and holiday packages. The Caring Committee's trained volunteers are committed to providing confidential hands-on support and companionship to the members of our congregation.

To arrange for this mitzvah, please call Rabbi Cosgrove's office at 212-369-2600, x120.



SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

סיון-תמוז-אב

Friday, July 1 29 Sivan

Candles, 8:13 pm

6:15 pm | Friday Evening Service

Saturday, July 2 30 Sivan

Rosh Hodesh, Parashat Hukat

9:15 am | Sanctuary service

20 mins after morning services | Minha

Friday, July 8 6 Tammuz

Candles, 8:12 pm

6:15 pm | Friday Evening Service

Saturday, July 9 7 Tammuz

Parashat Balak

9:15 am | Sanctuary Shabbat service

20 mins after morning services | Minha

Friday, July 15 13 Tammuz

Candles, 8:08 pm

6:15 pm | Friday Evening Services

Saturday, July 16 14 Tammuz

Parashat Pinhas

9:15 am | Sanctuary Shabbat service

20 mins after morning services | Minha

Friday, July 22 20 Tammuz

Candles, 8:04 pm

6:15 pm | Friday Evening Service

Saturday, July 23 21 Tammuz

Parashat Mattot

9:15 am | Sanctuary Shabbat Service

20 mins after morning services | Minha

Friday, July 29 27 Tammuz

Candles, 7:57 pm

6:15 pm | Friday Evening Service

Saturday, July 30 28 Tammuz

Parashat Mas'ei

9:15 am | Sanctuary Shabbat Service

20 mins after morning services | Minha

Friday, August 5 5 Av

Candles, 7:50 pm

6:15 pm | Friday Evening Service

Saturday, August 6 6 Av

Parashat D'varim/Shabbat Hazon

9:15 am | Sanctuary Shabbat service

20 mins after morning services | Minha

Monday, August 8 8 Av

Erev Tisha B'Av

8:00 pm | Evening Service, followed by speaker (see p. 9)

9:00 pm | Reading of Eikhah

Tuesday, August 9 9 Av

Tisha B'Av

7:15 am | Morning service with Torah reading

5:45 pm | Minha service and Torah reading (No Ma'ariv)

8:35 pm | Fast ends

Friday, August 12 12 Av

Candles, 7:41 pm

6:15 pm | Friday Evening Services

Saturday, August 13 13 Av

Parashat Va-et-hanan/Shabbat Nahamu

9:15 am | Sanctuary Shabbat service

20 mins after morning services | Minha

Friday, August 19 19 Av

Candles, 7:32 pm

6:15 pm | Friday Evening Service

Saturday, August 20 20 Av

Parashat Eikev

9:15 am | Sanctuary Shabbat Service

20 mins after morning services | Minha

Friday, August 26 26 Av

Candles, 7:21 pm

6:15 pm | Friday Evening Service

Saturday, August 27 27 Av

Parashat R'eih

9:15 am | Sanctuary Shabbat Service

20 mins after morning services | Minha

Daily morning minyan: Monday–Friday at 7:15 am; Sundays and Legal Holidays at 9:00 am. Minha/Ma'ariv: Sunday–Thursday at 5:45 pm.

Rabbi Elliot J. Cosgrove and Rabbi Steven I. Rein will preach and conduct the services together with Cantor Shiree Kidron and Cantorial Intern Elisa Abrams, with Neil Robinson at the organ. Cantor Azi Schwartz will join them on the bimah after August 15.

pasyn.org/resources/sermons

READ THE RABBIS' SERMONS AT WWW.PASYN.ORG/RESOURCES/SERMONS.

Synagogue Family / July–August 5771

מזל טוב Mazal Tov /

Dr. James Goldmann – on being honored at a Brooklyn Borough Hall Jewish Heritage Night Salute to Israel for his contributions to New York City College of Technology, to the Jewish community and to the world at large. / **Cara & Donald Malter** – on the birth of a daughter, Daphne Anna, and to big brother Julian. / **Randie & Aaron Malinsky** on the birth of a daughter, Molly Malinsky.

ברוכים הבאים Welcome /

Avi & Becky Banyasz / **David & Jamie Chubak** / **Bruce & Dawn Darringer** / **George & Keren Davis** / **Alexander & Antonella Gamburd** / **Lea Hertzberg** / **Michael & Nancy Lascher** / **Murray Markowitz & Rebecca Fischer** / **Craig & Erica Siena** / **Adam & Lauren Turteltaub** / **Eric & Brooke Workman** / **Joshua & Cori Zeichner**

המקום ינחם Condolences /

Debra & Stuart Abramovitz on the loss of her father, Sol Gruber. / **Rick and Amy Atlas** on the loss of his father, Jozef Atlas / **Dr. Kathy Grunfeld, Nicole, Natalie & Gabrielle**, on the loss of their husband and father, Dr. Paul Grunfeld / **Alan & Dawn Nickman** on the loss of his sister, Candy Ann Jacobson / **Gail Silberman** on the loss of her father, Oscar Silberman.

– JOURNEYS INTO JUDAISM –

Conversion Course at PAS

OVER THE PAST NINE MONTHS, Park Avenue Synagogue offered MASA'OT: Journeys into Judaism, a course for people considering conversion to Judaism under the auspices of the Conservative movement. Fifteen participants, including the Jewish partners of people in relationships, were enrolled in the class, which offered instruction in Jewish concepts, values, holidays, lifecycle events, and worship, and guidance in how to create a Jewish home. By the conclusion of the course, nine individuals had appeared before a Bet Din, immersed in the mikveh, and become Jews.

We wish them *Mazal Tov* and warmly welcome them into the Jewish people!

We are exploring the possibility of offering a similar course again next year, if there is sufficient interest to fill a class. Participants need not be committed to converting. Anyone is welcome who wishes to learn more about Judaism and to seriously explore the possibility of joining the Jewish community.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining such a class, please contact Rabbi Steven Rein at srein@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600, x124.

Weekly Social Work Support for PAS Seniors, Families and their Caregivers

If you are looking for companionship, shopping assistance, an escort to a medical appointment, a volunteer opportunity or caregiver support for yourself or a family member, please contact DOROT social worker Katie Weinberger, LMSW, who holds office hours at PAS on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact Katie at 212-769-2850 or kweinberger@dorotusa.org, or Rabbi Rein at srein@pasyn.org or at 212-369-2600, x124. Made possible by a UJA Partners in Caring grant.



Employment and career counseling, financial consultation, debt counseling, budget assistance, legal services and personal counseling

These services are available to individuals in the Jewish community (confidentially and at no charge) through UJA-Federation's Connect-to-Care initiative.

To reach a Connect-to-Care counselor, please call 212-399-2685, x206.

Classes

Contemporary Jewish Thought

Tuesdays | July 5, 12, 19, 26 | 11:30 am | Rabbi Steven Rein

This class will look at several Talmudic selections, taking into account the elucidations in the book *Nine Talmudic Readings* by the French Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas. The passages cover topics from the ethics of forgiveness to sorcery to the creation of women. Sources will be distributed in class.

Horim 101

Tuesdays, July 19 & August 16 | 6:00 pm | Rabbi Steven Rein

Horim ("parents") 101 is a group for parents with children ages 0–5 who are looking to infuse Judaism and Yiddishkeit into their homes. We will discuss how to incorporate Jewish values, rituals and holidays in the home as well as ways to become involved in the Jewish community. Coordinators: Donna Ellenbogen, M.Ed, MSW, LCSW and Carolyn Shapiro.

RSVP to cdemarest@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600, x111.

Library Lunch & Learn | Thursdays | 12:00 pm

Members of the Clergy and Senior Staff take turns leading an hour of study and discussion on topics ranging from the Holocaust in film to the history of cantorial music to Talmudic tales. Come one week or every week and join in.

Midtown Lunch & Learn: Texts Every Conservative Jew Should Know

Wednesdays | July 6, 13, 20, 27 | 12:00 pm

Rabbi Neil Zuckerman & Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove

Out of the hundreds of rabbinic texts that are central to understanding and appreciating the Jewish tradition, there are some that are more essential than others for Conservative Jews to know and understand. These texts deal with issues from the giving of the Torah to conversion, from Hanukkah to the eternal question of why the righteous suffer. Come study the rabbinic texts that infuse Conservative Judaism with meaning and vitality.

Space is limited; registration required. Cost is \$50 for four-session course and kosher lunch at each session.

Register online at www.pasyn.org under Calendar/July 6.



Parashat HaShavua

Shabbat/Saturdays | 8:45 am

Participate in a lively discussion of the week's Torah portion for half an hour before the start of Shabbat morning services. Newcomers always welcome!

Shulhan Ivrit | Cantor Shiree Kidron

Mondays | July 11, 18; August 1, 15, 22, 29 | 7:00 pm

Keep up your conversational Hebrew over the summer! Continue reading educational newspapers and exploring Israeli music. For intermediate and advanced level speakers,

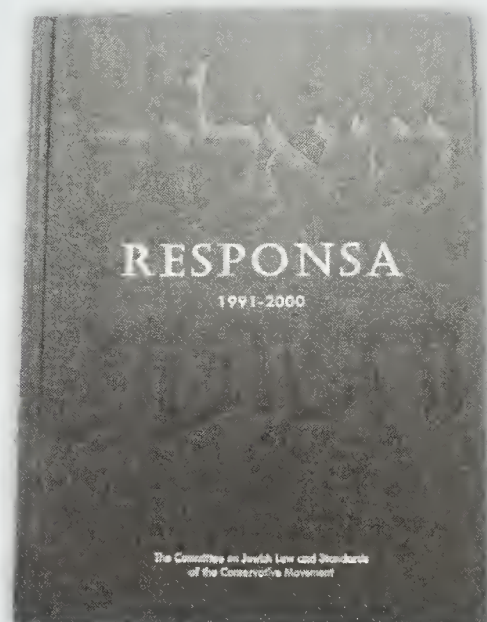
Talmud Torah | Rabbi Steven Rein

Fridays | July 1, 22, 29; August 19, 26 | 8:00 am, after morning minyan

We will continue our study of the eighth chapter of *Massekhet Hullin*, Tractate Hullin, in the Babylonian Talmud, which deals with the laws of mixing milk and meat. Newcomers welcome!

pasyn.org/calendar

GET UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION ABOUT PAS PROGRAMS, EVENTS & SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT WWW.PASYN.ORG/CALENDAR



Summer Tuesday Night Learning

Chanting the Torah

Tuesdays | July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2 | 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Cantorial Intern Elisa Abrams

In this class we'll learn the system of cantillation, or trope, used to chant the Torah, enabling students to prepare Torah readings on their own. The class is open to people who are interested in learning trope in order to better understand the Torah reading as well as to people who want to read from the Torah at services. Prerequisite: ability to read Hebrew.

Register online at www.pasyn.org under Calendar/July 5. Those without internet, call 212-369-2600, x121.

Rabbinic Responsa for Today: Conservative Responses to Contemporary Issues

Tuesdays | July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Rabbi Neil Zuckerman

How does a Jew know what to do? Since the time of the rabbinic sages, a Jew who had a serious ethical or legal problem would send a written question to a rabbi, who would answer with a detailed reply based on the Bible, the Babylonian Talmud, commentaries to the Talmud and codes of Jewish law. Together, these questions and answers are called responsa. Responsa literature is more than a catalog of answers to particular legal questions. This literature forms an historical record that expresses the ongoing ability of Judaism to address contemporary challenges through the lens of Jewish ethics and values. In this class, we will study compelling responsa from the Conservative Movement's Committee of Jewish Law and Standards, material that demonstrates not only the powerful moral voice of our tradition, but also the vibrancy of Conservative Judaism as it evolves and speaks to Jews in the 21st century.

Register online at www.pasyn.org under Calendar/July 5. Those without internet, call 212-369-2600, x121.

Events & Activities

The Cairo Geniza: Listen to the Adventure, Look at the Artifacts

*A Park Avenue Synagogue Summer Series –
Attend either event or both!*



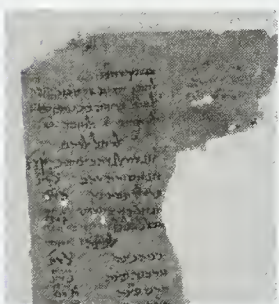
Part 1: An Evening with Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole

Authors of Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza

Tuesday, June 28 | 7:00 pm | at PAS

Through photographs and lecture, Hoffman and Cole will illuminate the little-known story of the Cairo

Geniza – a trove of letters, poems, wills, marriage contracts, Bibles, money orders and petitions dating to as early as the 9th Century.



Part 2: Museum Visit: Fragments from the Cairo Geniza

Sponsored by JTS@PAS

At The Jewish Theological Seminary,
Broadway & 122nd Street | RSVP

Wednesday, July 20 | 6:00 pm

Dr. David Kraemer, the Joseph J. and Dora Abbell Librarian at the

Jewish Theological Seminary, will give a behind-the-scenes presentation of fragments from the Cairo Geniza housed in the Rare Book Room of the JTS Library. No charge, but advance registration required. Bring a government-issued ID for admission.

Register online at www.pasyn.org under Calendar/July 20. Those without internet, call 212-369-2600, x121.

Moonbeams

Tuesday, July 5 | in honor of Rosh Hodesh Tammuz

Monday, August 1 | in honor of Rosh Hodesh Av

For location & readings, contact Joann Rosoff at joannrosoff@aol.com.

Sponsored by Men's Club

Tough Jews Film Festival II: Inglourious Basterds

Wednesday, July 6 | 7:00 pm | Ages 18+

Film night on the Park Avenue Synagogue rooftop. Pizza and beer will be served. No charge.

RSVP to jdolinsky@nyc.rr.com.

*Sponsored by the Rothschild Library
and the Sholem Aleichem Yiddish Club*

An Evening of Yiddish Film: Yidl Mitn Fidl

Thursday, July 7 | 6:00 pm

A summer get-together for Yiddish Club regulars and everyone else who enjoys a *bissele* Yiddish. *Yidl Mitn Fidl* was the first truly international Yiddish movie hit. Starring Molly Picon and shot on location in Poland in 1936, with shtetl residents as extras, the film captures the vitality of the small town Jewish life that was soon to disappear. We've set an early start time so that everyone can be home before dark. *Kum hob hanoye!*

Sponsored by the Singles Committee

Singles Wine Tasting

Tuesday, July 12 | 6:30 pm

Join the PAS Singles for a wine tasting party accompanied by a light supper.

For more information, call Fred Mirsky at 212-634-6447, x2156.

An Evening of Welcome to Cantor Shiree Kidron

Wednesday, July 13 | 7:00 PM | on the PAS Room

Welcome our new assistant cantor, Shiree Kidron, to the Park Avenue Synagogue community with an evening of music and camaraderie. Light refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by Men's Club

Torah on Tap

Thursday, July 21 | 7:00 pm | RSVP

All are welcome to the PAS roof to talk Torah with Rabbi Rein over beer and fine spirits.

RSVP to jdolinsky@nyc.rr.com.

Tisha B'Av Evening Session

“I will eulogize the Torah with weeping and sackcloth”: The Rebirth of Israel in the 21st Century



Monday, August 8 | 8:00 pm | Evening Service, Speaker and reading of *Eikhah*
Rabbi David Hoffman

The line above, taken from one of the *kinot*, laments written for the 9th of Av, reflects the depths of despair that Jews felt over the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem. It seemed as if the very Torah must be lost. Today the exiles

have returned, and Jerusalem is once again vibrant. What are we eulogizing on Tisha B'Av?

Rabbi David Hoffman teaches Talmud and Rabbis at JTS and serves as Scholar-in-Residence of its Development Department. David is particularly committed to continuing Rabbinic education and is a core faculty member of the Rabbinic Training Institute and the Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Enrichment Initiative. He was ordained by JTS and received his PhD in Talmud there. In addition to JTS, he has taught at numerous NYC institutions and in communities across North America. As a lay leader, David is active in Hazon and has served on the Executive Committee of the New York Ride.



Special Event

Ruth Gruber at PAS

Screening of *Ahead of Time* and Q&A with Ruth Gruber and the producer of the film

Monday, July 25 | 7:00 pm | RSVP

She didn't just report the news . . . she made it! With her love of adventure and fearlessness, Ruth Gruber defied tradition from the moment she became the world's youngest PhD at the age of 20 in 1931. *Ahead of Time* tells the remarkable journey of 96-year-old Gruber, who made history throughout her trail-blazing career by becoming the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic in 1935 and by escorting 1000 Holocaust refugees from Naples to New York in a secret wartime mission in 1944. She covered the heart-wrenching ordeal of the refugees aboard the ship Exodus 1947 with photographs that helped change the world. Following the screening of *Ahead of Time*, join Ms. Gruber and a producer of the film for a discussion. No charge.

Register online at www.pasyn.org under Calendar/July 25. Those without internet, call 212-369-2600, x121.

ADULT EDUCATION & EVENTS

For more information about adult classes and events, please visit www.pasyn.org.



Summer Reading

Get a headstart on the books our Book Discussion Groups will feature in the Fall.

*For the Evening Book Discussion Group
facilitated by Pat Davidson:*

Foreign Bodies – Cynthia Ozick

The Hare with Amber Eyes – Edmund De Waal

The Free World – David Bezmozgis

*For the Morning Book Discussion Group
sponsored by Sisterhood and facilitated by Renée Waldinger:*

To The End of the Land – David Grossman

The Invisible Bridge – Julie Orringer

The Rise of David Levinsky – Abraham Cahan

Gallery

March – August

Waldsee 1944

This exhibition features postcard-sized works created by contemporary artists from around the world to commemorate the deportation of Hungarian Jewry in summer 1944. The Jews were forced to send reassuring postcards to family and friends, which not only allayed their fears, but also provided the Nazis with the locations of other Jews to be apprehended.

Register now for Fall Adult Learning at PAS

Register soon! Space is limited. To register, visit www.pasyn.org, and click on Adult Education. For those without internet, call 212-369-2600, x121. Not sure which class to take? Contact Liz Offenbach, Director of Synagogue Programming, at loffenbach@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600, x142.

Florence Melton Adult Mini-School

Wednesday | 6:45 – 9:00 pm or Thursday | 9:15 – 11:30 am

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School is a two-year program that builds Jewish literacy through a sophisticated, intellectually stimulating, text-based curriculum for students of all levels and types of Jewish background. PAS will offer first and second year classes both Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Melton Graduate Courses (“Melton 3”)

Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings | times TBD.

The Rachel Wasserman Scholars Curriculum offers a deeper examination of selected Jewish texts, from the Biblical to modern, building on the first two years of Mini-School studies. Open only to graduates of the Mini-School. PAS will offer a 10-lesson Scholars course both Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Context

Wednesday | 6:45 – 9:30 pm

An extension of JTS, *Context* is a two-year program offering an intellectual journey through Jewish history and thought taught by scholar-teachers with advanced academic training.



Mitzvah of the Month

Visit to Sunrise Day Camp | Thursday, July 7 | 8:30 am – 2:00 pm | Ages 16+ | RSVP

Back by popular demand: join fellow congregants to visit Sunrise Day Camp, the only summer day camp in the nation exclusively for children with cancer. Sunrise Day Camp meets the emotional, social, recreational and physical needs of children with cancer and related illnesses while allowing them the comfort and safety of their own homes at night. With the support of UJA-Federation of New York, Sunrise Day Camp is free for these children and their siblings. Sunrise Day Camp is situated on the Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds, a 300-acre wooded site that borders Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island. We will spend the morning and have lunch with these special kids and counselors, and we'll do a hands-on project with the children. We will travel together from PAS, but you are also welcome to meet the group at the camp.

MITZVAH DAY 2011
SUNDAY, NOV. 20



Save the Date for Mitzvah Day 2011 | Sunday, Nov. 20 | 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

- Programming for all ages, including very young children
- Hands-on volunteer activities such as making lunches for the homeless, baking cookies for blood drive volunteers, filling birthday packages for DOROT seniors and making care packages for American and Israeli soldiers
- Supporting global projects in areas such as Argentina, the FSU, and Africa
- Live entertainment, educational film, book discussions
- Behind-the-scenes tour of the historic PAS building
- Action Booth featuring Mitzvot of the Month for next year and UJA@PAS
- Mitzvah Day Café – have a snack, keep up your energy and stay all day!

The Mitzvah Day committee wants Mitzvah Day to represent the entire PAS community. If you are involved with an organization that could benefit from Mitzvah Day, please tell us. For example, if your Bar Mitzvah project involves reading to young kids, we may develop on a children's book drive. If you work with women in a domestic violence shelter, we would like to create a "welcome package" with toiletries or whatever may be needed.

Check regularly at www.pasyn.org under Calendar/November 20 for updates and more details.

Please contact Leith Greenslade at leithgreenslade@earthlink.net or Joanna Silver at JoannaSilver@verizon.net to share ideas and get involved!

– REPORT –

The Ultimate Mitzvah

DID WE PASS OVER THE VERRAZANO BRIDGE? I CAN'T TELL BECAUSE OF THE FOG! In the pouring rain, we finally made it to Baron Hirsch Cemetery in Staten Island. We were there to perform the mitzvah of respecting the dead. The cemetery was gigantic. Graves stretched as far as the eye could see. Many of the tombstones were covered with overgrown branches, infested with poison ivy.

Our job was to hack away at this foliage, which completely blanketed the tombstones. We were given heavy gloves to protect us from the poison ivy and thorns. Our tools were gigantic, sharp, hedge cutters. There was even a chain saw!

We had to look very closely to find the tombstones under the countless branches. Our objective was clear. We cut from the trees, branch by branch. I soon learned that the heavy gloves

were no match for the thorns. I was constantly pricked and left with wounds as a result. We dragged away tarps full of what felt like 1000 pounds of branches, ivy, and thorns, but we kept on hacking, in the pouring rain. This hacking took great amounts of teamwork.

While we were chopping away, I began to wonder: Maybe I know the person whose name is on this grave. Finally, the tombstone was visible. I used my glove to clear away the dirt until the name "EPSTEIN" was visible, in faded lettering. I didn't know who Epstein was, but I learned it didn't matter whom the grave belonged to. What I realized at that moment was that we were doing one of the highest mitzvot. We cared for someone's eternal resting place and expected nothing in return.

— Michael Silverstone, 11th Grade

Mitzvah of the Month – The First Year



WHEN GOD SENT MOSES TO EGYPT TO FREE THE ISRAELITES, MOSES RESISTED THE CALL. Questioning his own abilities he asked, *Mi anochi*, who am I to undertake this? He pleaded with God, “I have never been a man of words. Make someone else your agent.”

Such was the humble beginning of the first, great story of human liberation and social justice. Moses ultimately answers the question, *Mi anochi*, not with words, but with actions. He acts to free his people, relieving their suffering and igniting a spark for social justice that has been kept alight by the Jewish community for generations.

This past year our community has been kindling that spark every month as we relieved the suffering of others through our Mitzvah of the Month program, launched on Mitzvah Day 2010. From October through July, over 100 volunteers of all ages have worked with 14 different organizations to help hundreds of our most vulnerable neighbors.

We fed the hungry by packing hundreds of bags of food and handing them out at the Yorkville Common Pantry. More than 50 people helped our High School students pack 500 Thanksgiving bags for the clients of our own Food Pantry. Another team of volunteers served hot lunch to the elderly residents of a Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty* residence. In yet another initiative, MOTM volunteers joined forces with the Men’s Club and High School students to serve lunch and entertain more than 80 clients of Project Ezra. April saw our community’s first participation in Midnight Run, an opportunity to provide clothing as well as food. After collecting and assembling hundreds of bags of food, clothes and toiletries, a group including many of our teens rode in vans throughout Manhattan to deliver the items to the homeless late one Saturday night.

Several of our projects gave us the opportunity to honor the elderly. There were the meals served at the Met Council residence and for Project Ezra. In addition, our youth choir, Tavim, made the elderly residents of Jewish Home Lifecare* laugh and cry twice during the year when they sang for Hanukkah and again for Purim, led by Cantor Elana Rozenfeld. The residents loved the children so much that we have an open invitation to visit and we will do so again.

The Torah tells us repeatedly to care for the “widows and orphans,” in other words, for the most vulnerable in our communities. On Martin Luther King Day we sent one group of volunteers to paint a community center in a large Brooklyn housing estate with Habitat for Humanity, while another team delivered information about Food Stamps and Medicaid to residents of a neighborhood in the Bronx. Our Congregational



School students collected and assembled 200 bags of school supplies for children living in homeless shelters run by Women-in-Need. When we hand-delivered the bags to the shelter, we spent time with the children doing crafts, and Jody Prusan came along to provide live entertainment. Still other volunteers spent an afternoon with the children of the Henry Ittleson Center* in Riverdale. Together with these young people who have experienced severe trauma in their young lives we decorated cookies, painted craft projects and sang and danced to Matt Check's impressive repertoire of Michael Jackson songs.

In Judaism, treating others justly extends to honoring the dead. On a Sunday in May, PAS volunteers braved the rain to clean up a section of the Baron Hirsch Cemetery in Staten Island, working in partnership with the Community Association for Jewish At-Risk Cemeteries*. (See p. 11.)

In a project that cared for our neighbors and for our neighborhood, we spruced up the gardens at the Abraham III Residence* which houses formerly homeless people with psychiatric disabilities nearby on the Upper East Side.

Practicing the mitzvah of visiting the ill, we will end the year on a high note in July, by spending the morning with the children of Sunrise Day Camp.* (See p. 11.)

Yasher koach to all who worked hard to make our first year a great success! We are grateful to all the members of the clergy and senior staff who participated in projects. We especially thank the volunteers who led our dedicated teams: Lisa Dessler, Debbie Gahr, Leith Greenslade, Lite Sabin, Lisa Siegal, Dawn Spiera, Sally Tycher, and the extraordinary Silverstone and Moses-Gurevitch families.

To see more Mitzvah of the Month photos, visit <http://pasmitzvahofthemonth.shutterfly.com/>.

The Mitzvah of the Month initiative provides the PAS community with opportunities to become more actively engaged in social justice at home, in Israel and in the world. Mitzvah of the Month also fosters increased understanding of the plight of vulnerable Jews and others throughout the world and publicizes the inspiring work of Jews who are making a difference in the lives of those most in need.

On Mitzvah Day 2011 (see p. 11), we will launch another year of rewarding mitzvah opportunities. Plan to join us often for Mitzvah of the Month!



* UJA-Federation of New York Beneficiary Agency

YOUNG FAMILY EDUCATION (YFE)

YFE Summer Programs

Kabbalat Shabbat & Ice Cream on the Roof

For children ages 0-6 together with an adult

Every Friday in July and August (except August 26) | 1:00 pm

Get ready for Shabbat with your PAS friends every week in the summer. Join YFE director Matt Check and members of the clergy for music and a story in the spirit of Shabbat. Afterwards, we'll go up to the roof for ice cream.

Shabbat Mornings

For families with children ages 0-6

Saturdays, July 9 & 23, August 6 & 20 | 11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Join members of our clergy, YFE Director Matt Check and song leader Hadar for a lively shabbat with song and dance. We'll end with kiddush, *ha-motzi* and a light snack.

YFE Fall Programs

For children ages 0-5

Fall Semester: September 6, 2011 – February 3, 2012

Register now for Fall Toddler & Preschool Programs. We offer two morning classes for children ages newborn to 3 years – accompanied by a parent, a grandparent or a caregiver – to help young children and their families to feel at home at the synagogue. Classes foster a commitment and love for Jewish life, culture and tradition. We also offer an afternoon enrichment class for children ages 4 to 5.

Space is limited! Some sessions are already closed. Visit www.pasyn.org/Young Family Education for full descriptions and link to registration form.

– PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER –

Early Childhood Center Applications for 2012-13

PAS MEMBER FAMILIES who would like to apply to the Park Avenue Synagogue Early Childhood Center for the 2012-13 school year are asked to call the school (212-369-2600, x150) and request an application form starting May 2, 2011.

All children who were born before April 1, 2010 are eligible for school in September 2012. The Park Avenue Synagogue Early Childhood Center adheres strictly to its cut-off dates. Families who have been active longtime members of the synagogue are given special consideration; however, because of limits on class size and the need to balance groups in a variety of ways, membership does not guarantee acceptance.

There is an application fee of \$40 per child. The application process includes a visit and tour of the school by one or both parents and a separate visit with the child.

For the school year beginning in September 2011 there were approximately 55 openings. It will be very helpful to have some idea prior to September how many eligible member families are interested in a place for the 2012-13 school term. This will enable us to determine how many applications from new members or non-members we will be able to accept. Thank you so much for your interest in the school and for your cooperation.

Youth & Teens Summer Programs

Food Pantry

For students in Grades 6-12

Wednesdays | 3:30 – 5:00 pm (July 6 – Aug. 24)

Fridays | 4:00 – 5:00 pm (July 8 – Aug. 26)

This year, for the first time ever, the PAS Food Pantry will continue to provide food to some 200 families throughout the summer. The PAS Food Pantry, the largest and oldest student-run food pantry program in the U.S., was inaugurated in 1985. At the initiative of the teens who are currently active volunteers, the food pantry will not take a break during school vacation. Students who will be in the city over the summer asked to keep the Food Pantry open. “After all,” they said, “people are still hungry in July and August.” They pack the food packages on Wednesdays and distribute them on Fridays. Our volunteers would love to include you on their team this summer! If you are interested, come on a Wednesday or Friday afternoon!

Youth Lounge Hours

For students in Grades 6-12

Wednesdays | 6:00 – 8:00 pm (July 6 – Aug. 24)

Our educational team has many innovations in store for next school year. One of the biggest changes we’re cranking out is the development of a youth-specific space in the synagogue. Primarily a congregational Youth Lounge, newly refurbished room 408 will be a haven for kids and teens throughout the year. It will be a friendly space filled with comfortable furniture, fun gadgets and electronic media aplenty, games like ping-pong and foosball, and educational resources for students to use whenever they’re at PAS in a non-classroom context. The Youth Lounge will be used for informal educational programming, youth *t’fillot*, and starting this summer – a casual space where students can hang out at designated times. If you’re around this summer, drop by for a couple of hours on Wednesday night. We’ll have pizza, maybe watch a movie, and have a great time together!

USY & Kadima METNY Encampment

For students in Grades 6-12

August 22 – 30

Held at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires

USY & Kadima are the national youth branches of the Conservative movement, and this year at PAS we’re going to try starting a chapter of our own. One of the programs available to us in the METNY region is the annual Encampment, an 8-day version of 8-week Jewish summer camp. Held at the end of the summer on the beautiful facilities of Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, the Encampment is a week filled with fun in the sun, prayer services, sports, meals, Jewish learning, and time to relax in the beautiful camp landscape. What better way to connect with the Conservative movement and get ready for an exciting year at PAS?!?! The cost of the program is \$589; partial scholarships will be available. Apply at www.metny.uscj.org/encampment.

For more information, please contact Jason Oppenheimer at joppenheimer@pasyn.org or 212-369-2600, x141.

Sponsored by the Rothschild Library

Kids’ Shabbat Book Basket

On Shabbat, look for the book basket near the ushers in the Sanctuary. There are Jewish books for children of all ages to look at while sitting quietly in their seats in the synagogue. Let your children enjoy the books during services and return them so that others may read them next week.

Celebrating a simha?

A birthday, anniversary, engagement, wedding, new grandchild, or anything else for which you are grateful?

SPONSOR A BREAKFAST KIDDUSH ANY WEEKDAY AFTER THE MORNING MINYAN.

For more information, contact Sam Rosenberg at 212-369-2600, x105 or srosenberg@pasyn.org.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Bikur Cholim

Estelle Roth.

Rabbi Cosgrove's Discretionary Fund

Sherry & Joel Cherwin, *in honor of the upcoming marriage of Howard & Rachelle Balaban's son Matthew.*

Michael & Emily Grad, *in honor of their son James' Bar Mitzvah on May 21.*

Philip Hermann, *in honor of his birthday.*

Yehuda Melton Class, *in honor of Rabbi Cosgrove.*

Pauline Zablow.

Sarah I. Gelman Memorial Fund

Evelyn Gelman, *in honor of her birthday.*

High School Food Pantry

Anita & Sheera Gluck, Freema & Harris Nagler, *in honor of Rabbi Elliot & Debbie Cosgrove.*

Susan & Ronald Kaufmann, *in honor of Miriam Tauber's special birthday.*

Jane Krenik, *in honor of her birthday.*

Joan & Sylvan Scheffler, *in memory of Sol Gruber, father of Debra Abramowitz.*

Joan & Sylvan Scheffler, *in honor of the naming of Mark & Sarita Fraier's granddaughter Emma.*

Suzanne Stadler, *in memory of her beloved father David Heller.*

Ernest & Zina Stern.

Meryl E. Wiener & Barry A. Bryer, *in memory of Bernard Dane.*

Library Fund

Joyce Paige, *in honor of her birthday.*

Prayer Book Fund

Andrea & Ivan Lustig, *in memory of Sol Gruber, father of Debra Abramovitz.*

Tikkun Olam Committee for Community Outreach

Sandy & Buddy Frank, *in memory of Telsche Burkholz, beloved sister of Lite Sabin.*

Synagogue Offerings

Gail & Joel Baron, *in memory of Zera Singer.*

Ernestine Bernstein, *in memory of her beloved mother Bertha Wolf.*

Dr. Rita Brause, *in memory of her beloved father Jack Brause.*

Roberta Brause, *in memory of her dear father Jack Brause.*

Sonia Breindel, *in memory of her beloved mother Dina Weissenberg.*

David Cook, *in memory of his beloved father Edward Cook.*

David & Kathleen Cook.

Harvey & Suzanne Drachman, *in honor of their anniversary.*

Bernard Feinberg, *in memory of his beloved brother Fred Feinberg.*

Myra Freed, *in memory of her beloved mother Gladys Freed.*

Bernard Friedman, *in memory of his beloved father Irving Friedman.*

Sarah Gelber, *in memory of her beloved mother Ruth Azaryad.*

Harold Geringer, *in memory of his beloved mother-in-law Sally Nissen.*

Efraim Grinberg, *in memory of his beloved wife Jane Grinberg.*

Alan Hirschfeld, *in memory of his beloved father Leo Hirschfeld.*

Nancy Hodin, *in memory of her beloved father Phillip Jackson.*

Gary Israel, *in memory of his beloved father Moe Israel.*

Leah Janus, *in memory of Sally Stein.*

Helen Judlowe, *in memory of her beloved father William Lautenberg.*

Abraham Katz, *in memory of his beloved father Alexander Katz.*

Donna Kramer, *in memory of her beloved father Lew A. Stricof.*

Joan Leiman, *in memory of her beloved mother Ida Rubinstein Maisel.*

Joan Levine Levenson, *in memory of her beloved sister Linda Olarsch.*

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Lili Mahlab, *in memory of her beloved mother Farah Mahlab.*

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Sheila Miller, *in memory of her beloved father Abraham M. Baker.*

Catheryne Morgan, *in memory of her martyred family.*

Dr. Richard Muchnick, *in memory of his beloved father Max Muchnick.*

Dr. Carol Mutterperl, *in memory of her beloved mother Gertrude Frieser.*

Charles Mutterperl, *in memory of his beloved mother Celia Mutterperl.*

Morris Orden, *in memory of his beloved grandmother Dinah King.*

Morris Orden, *in memory of his beloved father Joseph Orden.*

Joyce Paige, *in memory of her father Morris Sherman.*

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Andrew Schnipper, *in memory of his beloved father Dr. Leonard Schnipper.*

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Sydney Silberman, *in memory of his beloved wife Rosalind Grossman Silberman.*

Hope Simkowitz, *in honor of the wedding of Matt Balaban & Stacey Marmor on May 29, 2011.*

Sandy & Jennifer Smokler, *in honor of their anniversary.*

Dr. Allen Spiegel, *in honor of his birthday.*

Vera Wolff Sullivan, *in honor of her birthday.*

Marlene Zausner.

Bernard & Roberta Zuckerman, *in honor of their anniversary.*

Roberta Zuckerman, *in honor of her birthday.*

Welfare Fund, including Passover Appeal

Arthur Ainsberg

Steven & Evelyn Alden

Harris & Susan Joy Amster

Jean Pakter Bachman

Howard & Rachelle Balaban

David & Janice Barnard

Brett & Natalie Barth

Deborah Baum

Max & Dale Berger

Josephine Berger-Nadler

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July

PAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS JULY 2011 Sivan/Tammuz 5771

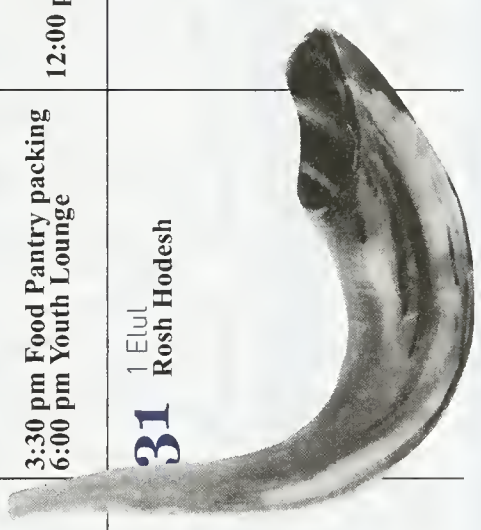
Information is subject to change. Confirm at www.pasyn.org or with the office.

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Any changes are noted when they occur. **Daily Shaharit Minyanim:** Monday – Friday at 7:15 am; Sunday & Legal Holidays at 9:00 am. **Minha/Ma'ariv:** Sunday – Thursday at 5:45 pm.

August

	1 1 Av Rosh Hodesh	2 2 Av	3 3 Av	4 4 Av	5 5 Av Candles, 7:50 pm	6 6 Av Parashat D'varim Shabbat Hazon
	7:00 pm Shulhan Ivrit 7:30 pm Moonbeams	6:00 pm Chanting the Torah 7:00 pm Rabbinic Responsa	3:30 pm Food Pantry packing 6:00 pm Youth Lounge	12:00 pm Lunch & Learn	4:00 pm Food Pantry 6:15 pm Friday Evening Service	8:45 am Parashat HaShavua 9:15 am Sanctuary service Minha 20 mins after service
7 7 Av	8 8 Av Erev Tisha B'Av	9 9 Av Tisha B'Av	10 10 Av	11 11 Av	12 12 Av Candles, 7:41 pm	13 13 Av Parashat Va-et-hanan Shabbat Nahamu
	8:00 pm Evening Service & Speaker 9:00 pm Reading of Eikhah	7:15 am Morning service with Torah reading 5:45 pm Minha service and Torah reading (No Ma'ariv) 8:35 pm Fast ends	3:30 pm Food Pantry packing 6:00 pm Youth Lounge	12:00 pm Lunch & Learn	4:00 pm Food Pantry 6:15 pm Friday Evening Services	8:45 am Parashat HaShavua 9:15 am Sanctuary service Minha 20 mins after service
14 14 Av	15 15 Av	16 16 Av	17 17 Av	18 18 Av	19 19 Av Candles, 7:32 pm	20 20 Av Parashat Eikev
	7:00 pm Shulhan Ivrit	6:00 pm Horim 101	3:30 pm Food Pantry packing 6:00 pm Youth Lounge	12:00 pm Lunch & Learn	8:00 Talmud Torah 4:00 pm Food Pantry 6:15 pm Friday Evening Service	8:45 am Parashat Hashavua 9:15 am Sanctuary service Minha 20 mins after service
21 21 Av	22 22 Av	23 23 Av	24 24 Av	25 25 Av	26 26 Av Candles, 7:21 pm	27 27 Av Parashat R'eih
	7:00 pm Shulhan Ivrit		3:30 pm Food Pantry packing 6:00 pm Youth Lounge	12:00 pm Lunch & Learn	8:00 am Talmud Torah 4:00 pm Food Pantry 6:15 pm Friday Evening Service	8:45 am Parashat Hashavua 9:15 am Sanctuary service Minha 20 mins after service
28 28 Av	29 29 29 Av	30 30 Av Rosh Hodesh	31 1 Elul Rosh Hodesh			
	7:00 pm Shulhan Ivrit					





Park Avenue Synagogue ק"ק אגודת ישרים

50 East 87th Street, New York, NY 10128

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David H. Lincoln, Rabbi Emeritus

Azi Schwartz, Cantor

Shiree Kidron, Assistant Cantor

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Marga Hirsch, Director, Edmond de Rothschild Library and Publications Editor

Jonathan Schlesinger, Chief Financial Officer

John Davis, Facilities Director

Lawrence Conley, Director of Media



A Look Ahead

SEPTEMBER

14 | Melton classes begin (see p. 10)

15 | Melton classes begin

28 | Rosh Hashanah begins in the evening

OCTOBER

8 | Yom Kippur

12 | Sukkot begins in the evening

20 | Simhat Torah evening celebration

21 | Simhat Torah morning, honoring Marcia Stone and Jim Rosenfeld

26 | Context classes begin (see p. 10)

NOVEMBER

1 – 3 | Book Fair

20 | Mitzvah Day

DECEMBER

20 | First Hanukkah candle